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UNCLAS DHAKA 003407

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SUBJECT: BANGLADESH 2005 FLOOD CONDITION REPORT NO. 2

REFERENCE: DHAKA 03247 DATED JULY 11, 2005

**1. Summary:** This cable updates the information provided in the referenced cable. The monsoon was fairly active over the country last week. Light to heavy rainfall was recorded at many places over the Brahmaputra, the Ganges, the Meghna basins and South Eastern Hill basin. As a result, flash flooding occurred in several northern districts. Low-lying areas in and around Dhaka, and Narayanganj districts were inundated. A heavier monsoon is predicted over the country in the second half of July. End Summary.

**2. Rainfall:** According to the BDG Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) records as of 17 July, 2005, light to heavy rainfall at most places and a very heavy rainfall at one place over the Brahmaputra basin, light to moderately heavy rainfall at a few places over the Ganges basin, light to heavy rainfall at most places over the Meghna basin, and light rainfall at a few places over the South Eastern Hill basin were recorded during the last 24 hours. Significant rainfall of 96.8 mm at Kaunia, 66.0 mm at Sylhet, 60.0 mm each at Sheola and Moulvibazar, 56.5 mm at Chilmari, 42.8 mm at Rangpur and 44.2 mm at Dinajpur was recorded during the same period.

**3. General Rivers Condition:** Yesterday, the FFWC water level monitoring stations' records, available from 71 reporting stations (out of the total 86 stations), indicated 35 stations rising, 28 stations falling, 3 stations remaining steady and 5 stations flowing above danger level during the last 24 hours. The 5 stations are located the Dharala at Kurigram, the Korotoa at Bogra, the Balu and Lakhya at Narayanganj and the Kangsha at Netrokona districts. The Brahmaputra-Jamuna was rising at all points except at Chilmari, the Ganges-Padma was falling at upstream points and most of the rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins were falling.

**4. Regional Flood Conditions:** A moderately heavy rainfall and onrush of water from upstream India have caused flash flooding at several places in the northern and north-eastern districts of Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Sherpur, Netrakona and Mymensingh. Standing crops and houses have reportedly been damaged by the flooding. The flood situation in the districts of Sunamganj and Netrokona was improving. Low-lying areas in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj district were inundated.

**5. Rainfall/Flood Prediction:** Rainfall predictions by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department are above normal during the second half of July. The flood situation is likely to deteriorate in the Brahmaputra, the Meghna and some parts of the Ganges basins. Low-lying areas in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj are likely to inundate further.

**6. OFDA stockpile:** OFDA provided four water treatment units and 10 zodiac boats in previous years to CARE and two water treatment units to Save the Children (SCF) for emergency response. All water treatment units and zodiac boats are in good condition and ready for deployment as and when required.

**7. OFDA Regional Advisor visit:** Rebecca Scheurer, OFDA Regional Advisor for South Asia, has scheduled a visit to Dhaka from 26-28 July 2005. The purpose of OFDA Advisor's visit is to discuss increased collaboration among the Title II partners (CARE, SCF and World Vision) for the maintenance of OFDA's in-country stockpiles and related disaster management activities. Ms. Scheurer will also brief Mission staff on OFDA disaster response policies and procedures.

**8. Mission Strategy:** The Mission continues to closely monitor the monsoon condition through its NGO partners and the Disaster Emergency Response local consultative sub-group, consisting of BDG, donors and implementing partner representatives.

